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# Message Text

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44
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /073 W
---------- 089313
R 231241Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2368

UNCLAS LONDON 09273

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN, BMEP, BEXP, UK
SUBJ: PLANS FOR MAPLIN AIRPORT SCRAPPED

REF: LONDON A-457 MAY 17, 1974

1. LABOR GOVERNMENT WHICH SHELVED PLANS WHEN IT TOOK OFFICE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BILLION POUND AIRPORT/SEAPORT COMPLEX AT MAPLIN, SOME 60 MILES EAST OF LONDON, HAS NOW ANNOUNCED THAT THE AIRPORT AT MAPLIN WILL NOT BE DEVELOPED AND THAT THE MAPLIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SET UP BY THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT TO RECLAIM LAND AND TO ACT AS LANDLORD WILL BE DISSOLVED.
/
2. ABANDONMENT OF MAPLIN SCHEME HAD BEEN PART OF LABOR PARTY'S ELECTION MANIFESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAPLIN AIRPORT CANCELLATION CAME AS NO SURPRISE. IN MAKING ANNOUNCEMENT, TRADE SECRETARY SHORE TOLD HOUSE OF COMMONS THERE WERE NUMBER OF REASONS FOR CANCELLING PROJECT MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH WERE NEW STUDIES SHOWING THAT BOTH SLOWER RATE OF GROWTH IN AIR TRAFFIC AND TREND TOWARD LARGER AIRCRAFT WILL ALLOW EXISTING RUNWAY CAPACITY IN LONDON AREA TO COPE WITH PROJECTED AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS UNTIL ABOUT 1990. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT TERMINAL CAPACITY AT EXISTING AIRPORTS WILL HAVE TO BE EXPANDED AND THERE MAY BE SOME DIVERSION OF LONDON TRAFFIC TO REGIONAL AIRPORTS.

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3. THE CANCELLATION ANNOUNCEMENT RELATED ONLY TO THE

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AIRPORT PART OF THE PROPOSED AIRPORT/SEAPORT COMPLEX
AND THE PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY HAS NOT COMPLETELY GIVEN
UP HOPE THAT A SEAPORT AT MAPLIN MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE
DEVELOPED. IN OUR VIEW, HOWEVER, THEIR HOPES ARE NOT
LIKELY TO BE REALIZED, LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE
TREMENDOUS COSTS INVOLVED.

SOHM

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** CONSTRUCTION, AIRPORTS, PROPOSALS (BID), REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 23 JUL 1974
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** n/a
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Authority:** n/a
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:**
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
**Document Number:** 1974LONDON09273
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**Film Number:** D740198-0980
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**Secure:** OPEN
**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** PLANS FOR MAPLIN AIRPORT SCRAPPED
**TAGS:** ETRN, BEXP, UK
**To:** STATE
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